

Despite what the major media say, George Wallace was shot not at the pinnacle of political success but when he had sustained a major set-back in Maryland. This truth has been lost in the emotional reaction to the attempt to kill him.

With general agreement that the attempted assassination the day before the primary would increase his vote, ~~his percentage of the total vote was less than he got in 1964.~~
Then he ^{ed}garnered 43%, this year only 40%.

That difference in itself is not significant. What is material is the large Goldwater vote in 1964 and Wallace's ballot spot not as ~~a~~ major-party Democrat but as ^{new}a third-party.

Yet with Goldwater cutting into his vote in 1964 and the advantage of running as a Democrat this year, he didn't do nearly as well.

~~When~~
~~With~~ the enormous added attention he has gotten in the intervening eight years is considered, with the fact that the Democrats are the majority party in Maryland, George Wallace slipped badly here.

His voters did turn out. In each election district, the larger the percentage of registered voters who went to the polls, the larger the percentage of the Wallace vote. This means that if the McGovern and Humphrey supporters stayed away from the polls, Wallace's didn't.

Further diminishing his political luster in a State where he has been popular is his non-populist reception in the urban areas, where most blue-collar workers live. There his percentages were smaller than in the rural areas, some of which he swept pretty clean.

In turn, this provokes wonder about the significance of bussing as a reason for major support of Wallace. Rural Maryland's children have been bussed long distances since the advent of the bus. Without bussing, ^{country}~~rural~~ kids would have their high school education limited in many cases to what can be provided in the disappeared one-room schools. Nobody wants this limitation on education.

My wife was bussed 40 miles daily when she entered high school. And she and her folks were pretty happy about it.

While Wallace got only two-fifths of the Democratic vote, the Associated Press trumpeted his "2 to 1 Victory", misleadingly because his vote was twice that of the ~~closest~~ ^{closest} rival. Forty percent is not a 2-1 lead.

Nixon Republicans went big for Wallace. All three leading Democrats outpulled the incumbent President.

If much of his strength in the Democratic primary came from cross-overs, a Washington Post poll indicates that four out of five Wallace ~~voters~~ ^{supporters} will vote for Nixon if Wallace is not the candidate.

Especially with Wallace crippled, probably permanently, this might well lead to a second-place alliance with Humphrey, a prospect before the attempted assassination.

What a switch that would be for both men, the first overtly now covertly racist Wallace running number two to the Humphrey who, in 1948, took the lead in ending inner-party discrimination against blacks!

But if Maryland is a fair sample, the shrewd Wallace knows he has slipped badly. That and his paralysis should make any Number Two spot more attractive to him.